

# The Village Gazette



Volume 5, Issue 12  
Village Creek Community Association

December 2008

## Cook-off winners

Congratulations to the "Killer B's," Chad Tucker and Jayland Keeney (pictured above) for winning the First Annual Village Creek Chili Cook-off!

Congratulations to Rhonda Gerrard, who won the skincare set at the BeautiControl booth drawing held at the Fall Festival/Chili Cook-off.



## Cookies for a Cause

The Fall Festival was more than just fun for the family this year. Three young residents, who are students at Northpoint Intermediate School, were given five dollars by their teacher and challenged to find a way to increase that amount so that it might benefit a charity. The girls, Miranda, Mia and Dallas, chose to take their money and buy supplies to bake cookies and brownies, then sold those goodies at the Fall Festival. Thanks to their creativity and the support of the neighborhood, the money they raised will go to a charity that provides water wells in countries that do not have clean drinking water readily available. Great job girls!



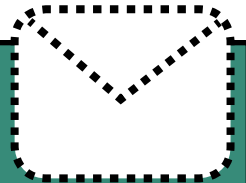
## Santa Claus is Coming... To Village Creek

Get redy for the jolly man in red – he's coming to Village Creek December 6. Bring the whole family and your camera for great photo ops!



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# The Village Gazette

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Constables Office.....	281-376-3472
www.cd4.hctx.net	
Klein Fire Dept. ....	281-376-4449
Poison Control Center.....	800-764-7661
Willowbrook Methodist.....	281-477-1000

### SCHOOLS

Tomball ISD .....	281-357-3100
www.tomballisd.net	
Willow Creek Elem (K-4).....	281-357-3080
Northpointe Int (5-6).....	281-357-3020
Willow Wood Jr (7-8) .....	281-357-3030
Tomball High (9-12).....	281-357-3220
Transportation .....	281-357-3193

### HOA MGMT

Chaparral Management Company .....	281-537-0957
Ms. Tally Jenkins .....	tallyj@chaparralmanagement.com
Fax .....	281-537-0312

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### SERVICES

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CenterPoint-Gas.....	713-659-2111
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FBI .....	713-693-5000
Harris County Animal Control.....	281-999-3191
Houston Chronicle .....	713-220-7211
Greater Houston Pool.....	713-771-7665
Municipal District Services (24 hrs).....	281-290-6500
Reliant-Street lights.....	713-923-3213

www.centerpointenergy.com/outage

Sex Offenders.....	www.familywatchdog.us
Time Warner Cable .....	281-774-7222
Waste Management.....	713-686-6666
Trash pickup Tues/Fri	
Recycling Fri (only newspapers/#1 & 2 plastics/aluminum cans)	
Yard Stork .....	kpuente@garygreene.com

### NEWSLETTER

Editor.....	skstengle@sbcglobal.net
(Deadline is the 10 <sup>th</sup> of each month)	
Publisher - Peel, Inc. ....	512-263-9181
Advertising.....	advertising@PEELinc.com, 888-687-6444

### RESIDENT BOARD MEMBERS

Scott Porto.....	scott@myvillagecreek.net
Diana Christopher .....	diana@myvillagecreek.net
Don Rumsey.....	don@myvillagecreek.net
Mike Preiser .....	mike@myvillagecreek.net
Jason Giddens .....	jason@myvillagecreek.net
poolcards@myvillagecreek.net	

## HOA Meetings

The Home Owners Association (HOA) meets the 3rd Monday of each month at 6:00 p.m. to discuss general business and special concerns. The meetings are held at the Fairwood club house, located at 14701 Spring Cypress. All residents are encouraged to attend.

## Welcome



The Village Creek HOA would like to extend a warm welcome to our newest board member, Jason Giddens. Mr. Giddens has taken the role of Director at Large, effective August 2008. He is a great addition to our board and we are looking forward to his service with us.

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# The Village Gazette

## Neighborhood Watch

December 2008

The Village Creek Neighborhood Watch Program has made significant strides forward in 2008. Thanks to the tremendous response of your fellow residents we now have more than -33- Block Captains out of the -54- needed for our neighborhood. You can see who your Block Captain is by accessing the list on myvillagecreek.net. If we do not have a Block Captain for your street and you are interested in joining the team please send me an email and we will bring you aboard.

Our Block Captains continue to work hard to complete the enrollment of neighbors on their streets so that we can obtain the 50% sign-up throughout the neighborhood to obtain free signage and become a recognized Neighborhood Watch organization. We are nearing the 50% requirement and should reach it in the first Quarter of 2009. The program is having a positive effect. I received no reports of vandalism this Halloween and only one report of a break-in since the beginning of October.

Neighborhood Night Out was a great success. Many streets held block parties. Constables stopped at some of these and interacted with our neighbors. The interaction between the Constables and our neighbors further cements the relationship that we wish to build with law enforcement.

### Remember Neighborhood Watch is the following:

#### Neighborhood Watch is intended to do the following:

1. Increase awareness of residents in the neighborhood.
2. Used the increased awareness so that residents become the eyes and ears of local law enforcement.
3. Communicate items and actions that will reduce the opportunity for and actual crime in the neighborhood.
4. Communicate both the successes that help prevent crime and the primary causes for a crime when one occurs.

If we do these things as a team we make our neighborhood a better place to live and reduce opportunities for criminals.

### Immediate Actions You Can Take To Reduce Crime:

#### 1) The following items were identified as action items to be shared with residents to reduce the opportunities for crime in Village Creek:

- a) Close garage doors even if the resident is at home,
- b) Keep all doors to the house including the door from an attached garage to the house locked at all times.
- c) Lock cars at all times.
- d) Remove all valuables from cars inclusive of items such as GPS portables, computers, iPods, etc...
- e) Do not leave keys in cars.
- f) Report any suspicious activity to Pct 4 Constable at 281-376-3472. If the resident is concerned about remaining anonymous than advise the resident to state up front that they are making an anonymous report. (This action is the cornerstone of a successful neighborhood Watch program.
- g) The holidays are coming so it is very important that we be vigilant and report suspicious activity to the Constables.

(Continued on Page 4)

## Hurricane IKE

With "IKE" behind us, it's easy to forget that Village Creek lost power for 12 long days. Twelve days doesn't seem long now, but some of those days were very humid and hot! In other ways not having power was a nice change to see the kids out playing, getting to know our neighbors a little better, spending more quality time with our families, finding new ways to feed the family, getting a few days off work and the kids enjoyed the days off from school. However, we're sure no one misses the hum of the generators.

For those of you who missed the news on September 24th by Channel 11/KHOU, Village Creek's HOA President, Scott Porto, was interviewed by Reporter, Wendell Edwards during the power outage and voiced concern as to what was taking Centerpointe so long to restore our power. It was the HOA's cry for help to Centerpointe for our community, and it worked, because within days the power was back on. Thank you Channel 11/KHOU for being there for Village Creek residents!



Visit this link to watch the news broadcast on Village Creek:

[http://www.khou.com/topstories/stories/khou080924\\_ks\\_day\\_12\\_without\\_power.aadbe8a8.html](http://www.khou.com/topstories/stories/khou080924_ks_day_12_without_power.aadbe8a8.html)

## Personal Classifieds

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*Neighborhood Watch- (Continued from Page 3)*

h) It is also important that if you are planning to be gone for a few days that you advise the Constable's office via phone or via the website so they can watch your home while you enjoy the holidays.

Please feel free to communicate items to your Block Captain if you have one or to me directly at [mike@myvillagecreek.net](mailto:mike@myvillagecreek.net) if you have questions or comments.

## Advertising Information

Please support the business that advertise in the Village Creek newsletter. Their advertising dollars make it possible for all residents to receive a newsletter each month at no charge. No homeowners association funds are used to produce or mail the newsletters. If you would like to support the newsletter by advertising, please contact Peel, Inc. Sales office at 888-687-6444 or [advertising@PEELinc.com](mailto:advertising@PEELinc.com) for ad information and pricing. The deadline for ads is the 10th of each month for the upcoming month's newsletter.

**Check Out Our Website:** [www.Myvillagecreek.net](http://www.Myvillagecreek.net)

## HOA Dues

The HOA Board recently met and hammered out the new Budget for 2009. In the process we have elected not to raise the dues for next year. Assessment fees will remain at \$627.00. Chaparral Management will be sending out the assessments in December and they are due in January 2009. Chaparral Management offers several payment options for your convenience. If you have any questions please contact Chaparral at 281-537-0957 or [tallyj@chaparralmanagement.com](mailto:tallyj@chaparralmanagement.com)

## How Do We Compare?

Lakewood Grove	\$515
<u>Village Creek</u>	<u>\$627</u>
Northpointe Forest	\$650
Lakes at Northpointe	\$689
Longwood	\$695
Lakewood Oaks Estates	\$788
Coles Crossing	\$800
Canyon Gate at Northpointe	\$850
Glennloch Farms	\$925

\*Above are 2008 Homeowner Association Dues.

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## New Splash Pad Update

To date, the splash pad is completed, with the exception of the canopy cover, which is on order and due to be installed by January 1. We hope that everyone enjoyed the new splash pad over the summer.

The swim season will be here before we know it and we do not anticipate any construction closures for the 2009 season. A big thank you to all who participated in getting this project off the ground and completed:

Scott Porto, Don Rumsey, Diana Christopher, Mike Preiser, Nicole Morris, Jimm Lubenow, Kraftsman Playground Equipment & Parks, Custom Surface Solutions, Greater Houston Pools, Pavecon (parking lot), Southwestern Roofing & Fence (wrought iron fence) and Summit Landscaping.

Two years of planning and a lot of volunteer hours went into this project and we are really glad to see it come to a close.

At no time will any source be allowed to use the Village Creek Newsletter contents, or loan said contents, to others in anyway, shape or form, nor in any media, website, print, film, e-mail, electrostatic copy, fax, or etc. for the purpose of solicitation, commercial use, or any use for profit, political campaigns, or other self amplification, under penalty of law without written or expressed permission from the Village Creek HOA and Peel, Inc. The information in the Village Creek Newsletter is exclusively for the private use of Village Creek Neighborhood residents only.

## Block Captains Still Needed!!!

The streets below still are in need volunteer block captains. If you'd like to volunteer or would like to receive more information, please visit [www.myvillagecreek.net](http://www.myvillagecreek.net) or email [mike@myvillagecreek.net](mailto:mike@myvillagecreek.net).

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**Cloverview**

**Cobbleshores-South**

**Days Dawn**

**Flower Mist**

**Gables Bend**

**Imperial Crossing**

**Leeside Drive**

**Ligustrum Trail**

**Midland Creek**

**Morning Rain**

**Pedder Way**

**Scarlet Forest**

**Sherlock Acres**

**Sky Haven**

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**Village Creek Trail Court**

**Willow Breeze**

**Wandering Streams-East**

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# The Village Gazette

## US Olympian to Speak at Northwest Flyers Registration Breakfast on February 7

The Northwest Flyers Track Club will host its annual free information / registration breakfast on February 7, 2009 for all boys and girls and their parents interested in joining for the 2009 season. The breakfast starts at 8:30AM at the Cypress Creek Christian Community Center Forum located at 6823 Cypresswood Dr., Spring, TX, 77379.

The breakfast is the annual opportunity for youth athletes to register for the 2009 summer track season, and to meet the Northwest Flyers coaches and staff, and other new and returning athletes. The event will be highlighted by a special presentation from a member of the USA Track & Field Olympic team.

The Northwest Flyers Track Club is a youth (age 6 -18) track organization, affiliated with USA Track & Field (USATF), that provides a full program of sanctioned "track" events such as sprints, hurdles, middle distance, distance,

relays and sanctioned "field" events such as long jump, triple jump, high jump, pole vault, discus, shot put and javelin. The Northwest Flyers has approximately 195 members, boys and girls. The club was founded 21 years ago by Olympic gold medalist Fred Newhouse to foster the development of youth track & field in the Northwest Houston area.

The Northwest Flyers is a member of the "Win with Integrity" program, a partnership between USATF and the American College of Sports Medicine. "Win with Integrity" brings elite track & field athletes and school-aged kids together to promote healthy lifestyles, keeping active, and living with integrity through the sport of track & field.

*For additional information on The Northwest Flyers Track Club, please visit the team website at <http://www.northwestflyers.org> or contact Linette Roach at (281) 587-8442 or [linette.roach@sbcglobal.net](mailto:linette.roach@sbcglobal.net).*

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# Village Creek Market Report

Courtesy of "DAVID FLORY"

This market information report is provided to keep you informed of resale market activity in your subdivision.

	May 08	Jun 08	Jul 08	Aug 08	Sep 08	Oct 08
\$350,000 +	0	0	0	0	0	0
\$300,000 - 349,999	0	1	0	0	1	0
\$250,000 - 299,999	0	1	1	0	0	0
\$200,000 - 249,999	0	1	3	2	0	1
\$160,000 - 199,999	1	0	2	0	2	0
\$160,000 -	0	0	0	1	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Highest \$/Sq Ft</b>	<b>63.15</b>	<b>88.58</b>	<b>82.36</b>	<b>70.50</b>	<b>83.25</b>	<b>66.30</b>

This chart represents the homes that have sold and closed in the past 6 months according the Houston Multiple Listing Service.

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# The Village Gazette

## Happy Pets Make For Happy Holidays

Submitted by: Cammie Teliha, DVM

The fall holiday season is a wonderful time for fun, food, family and friends all of which can be overwhelming for you family pets. The extra activities of the season can dramatically change the household routines, sights, and smells around the home. Therefore, it is important to consider these holiday activities from your pet's perspective and safe guard your furry friends to ensure that everyone in your family enjoys a happy and healthy holiday season.

First it is important to understand the hazards that our pets face as the holidays approaches. The following are some basic hazards that each pet can face during the holidays:

- Rich, fatty foods can be very dangerous to both cats and dogs. Many holiday foods such as turkey, smoked ham, garlic, onions and chocolate can cause GI upset, vomiting, diarrhea and even death.
- All bones, especially turkey bones, can cause intestinal tears and obstruct the digestive tract.
- Even grapes and raisins can be dangerous for dogs and can lead to kidney failure.
- Caffeine and alcohol can be toxic and should never be given to our pets, no matter how funny Uncle Pete thinks it might be.
- Cooking aids like aluminum foil, string and holiday decorations can all be very enticing for any pet, but each can be very dangerous and potentially deadly if ingested.

In addition to these specific hazards, the fact that the family routine can change dramatically can be very stressful to any pet. As parties occur, or when family and guests spend the night, pets can be overwhelmed with the noises and interactions which often leads to unwanted behaviors such as aggression, soiling and possibly running away.

With all these hazards to contend with my recommendation is to develop a simple and direct plan that everyone, both young and old, family and guest, can quickly understand and support.

### HOLIDAY GAME PLAN:

Post the Rules: How often have you heard your guest say "Oh, just one bite won't hurt"? The problem is if everyone offers your pet a little nibble there is no way to know what might have caused your pet to get sick. Preventative safety measures are the best strategies. By simply letting everyone know the rules your pet will be safer and there won't be any confusion about your expectations from both family and friends.

No Table Scraps: With so many holiday health hazards involving food and diet, this simple recommendation will ensure a healthy and well fed pet throughout the holiday season. Discourage family members and guests from indulging your pets with inappropriate treats.

(Continued on Page 11)



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# The Village Gazette

## Happy Pets- (Continued from Page 10)

Food that is high in sodium and fats, such as peanuts, chips, poultry skin and other meats can cause an inflammation of the pancreas which can lead to pancreatitis, a potentially life threatening condition. Always try to maintain the same feeding schedule as the rest of the year and if Uncle Pete just can't resist, have a small amount of veterinary approved pet treats on hand.

**Tidy Tidy Tidy:** This means everything from food to decorations. I know that this is easier said than done, but if everyone knows the game plan you will be more successful than you might expect. Decorations might not seem like a good meal, but the holiday season can seem like a buffet smorgasbord to some pets. Keeping the house neat with decorations out of reach will discourage bad behavior and help you keep track of the ornaments that go missing. Keep leftover foods out of reach and in tightly closed containers and make sure garbage cans are secure and all trash bags and places in trash can. It only takes a couple of minutes for a pet to tear up a trash bag and devour whatever is inside.

**Time Out:** When animals are stressed they can often become unpredictable and behave erratically. This is never good for a party. Be mindful of how scared your cat might get with a house full of strangers or how hyper Fido can be when all of the cousins are over. Providing a quiet out of the way spot for your pet to relax and get

away from all of the holiday activities can go a long way to ensuring a comfortable get together for everyone. Consider a pet time out when you sit down to eat. This will serve double duty by limiting the temptations for everyone. Cats are especially well served if they can hideaway in a back bedroom until everyone has gone home.

**Be Prepared:** This is especially true during the holidays. Always have your pet fully vaccinated and maintain your records for easy access. If your pet bites a guest the first question the ER will ask is "Is the animal vaccinated for rabies." If you can answer yes and provided current documentation you will greatly reduce all medical concerns and your potential financial obligations. Also, keep your veterinary hospital and the emergency veterinary clinic numbers handy. Your veterinarian can provide you with the closest emergency clinic information, this is especially important during the holidays when many animal hospitals are not open.

The holiday season should be fun for everyone, including your family pet. By putting together a Holiday Game Plan you can ensure the health and safety of your pet and your guests. Remember to share your plan with all of your family and friends, maintain your pet's regular diet and schedule, keep hazards away and be prepared and ready to take action if your pet becomes sick. By following these simple guidelines you can ensure that your pet will be healthy and happy for the holidays.

**WISHING ALL MY FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS A  
HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON AND A SPECIAL WELCOME  
TO ALL THOSE WHO CHOSE VILLAGE CREEK AS  
THEIR HOME IN 2008.**

## Village Creek Market Analysis

### # of Active Listings: 19

Price Range: \$169,900 - \$349,900

Avg. # Days on Market: 86

Avg. \$/sq. ft: \$78.21

Highest \$/sq. ft: \$96.11

Lowest \$/sq. ft: \$62.45

### # of Pending Sales: 2

Price Range: \$178,999 - \$320,000

Avg. # Days on Market: 136

Avg. \$/sq. ft: \$75.29

Highest \$/sq. ft: \$77.72

Lowest \$/sq. ft: \$72.86

### YTD Sales: 27

Price Range: \$159,900 - \$335,000

Avg. # Days on Market: 87

Avg. \$/sq. ft: \$70.76

Highest \$/sq. ft: \$101.30

Lowest \$/sq. ft: \$52.07

Data from Houston MLS – 11/06/2008



### Suzanne Ellison, ABR

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## Ask Your Rock for Retirement Income<sup>SM</sup>

What is a variable annuity anyway?

It's a contract with an insurance company. You put money in to invest for retirement, and you can defer taxes every year until you withdraw the money. When you retire, you can turn your savings into a stream of regular payments that are guaranteed for life. This used to mean giving up control of your savings. Not anymore.

How does this benefit work?

You add the guaranteed withdrawal benefit to a Prudential annuity. Then, you allocate your money among professionally managed portfolios based on your needs. Prudential gives you lots of choices, including alternative asset classes such as commodities or real estate investment trusts, which add diversification that can help reduce the effects of market volatility. When you get to retirement, you can activate our guaranteed withdrawal option, which allows you to draw regular income for life—even if your account value should hit zero.

Am I protected if the market goes down?

Yes. Like any annuity, the account value is subject to market fluctuation, investment risk and possible loss of principal. But, should the market go down, Prudential guarantees your income base will achieve at least 7% annual compounded growth for the first 10 years, or until you begin taking withdrawals (if sooner). Also, during periods of market decline, Prudential may automatically move a portion of your assets from variable portfolios to the AST Investment Grade Bond Portfolio to help minimize risk to your account value. Money is moved back when the market rises. You should know that, depending on the timing of the transfer, this could affect your ability to participate immediately in market recoveries.

What if I want to access my account value?

You can do so at any time. Please note, however, that excess withdrawals will proportionately affect the amount of subsequent income. As with most annuities, surrender charges may apply. Withdrawals and distributions of taxable amounts are subject to ordinary income tax and, if made prior to age 59½, may be subject to an additional 10% federal income tax penalty. Withdrawals also reduce the annuity's death benefit and account value.

Who stands behind the guarantees?

Annuity guarantees are based on the claims-paying ability of the issuing company. That's why it's wise to choose one with proven financial strength. Prudential issues annuities through three U.S.-based companies: Pruco Life Insurance Company; in New York, by Pruco Life Insurance Company of New Jersey, Newark, NJ; or by Prudential Annuities Life Assurance Corporation, Shelton, CT.

Is there a fee?

There is a fee for electing a guaranteed minimum withdrawal benefit. Also, variable annuities have fees, expenses and surrender charges, which you'll find in the prospectus.

ANNUITIES  
NOT FDIC OR GOVERNMENT AGENCY INSURED    MAY LOSE VALUE    NOT BANK OR CREDIT UNION GUARANTEED

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Investors should consider the contract and underlying portfolios' investment objectives, risks, charges, expenses and tax consequences carefully before investing. This and other important information is contained in the prospectuses, which can be obtained from your financial professional. You should read them carefully before investing.

Guarantees do not apply to the investment performance or safety of the underlying subaccounts in the variable annuity. Annuity contracts contain exclusions, limitations, reductions of benefits and terms for keeping them in force. Please consult your tax advisor for any tax issues.

Each issuing company is solely responsible for its financial condition and contractual obligations. Highest Daily Lifetime 7 comes at an additional cost through the purchase of a variable annuity contract. Distributor, Prudential Annuities Distributors, Inc., Shelton, CT. Issuing companies and distributors are all Prudential Financial companies. Issued on forms: RID-HD7(1/08), P-RID-HD7(1/08) et al or state variation thereof. Highest Daily Lifetime 7 may not be available in every state.

[Insert name of B/D firm through which you offer securities and/or investment advisory services]

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(first name, last initial)

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_\_

[This information will only be used  
to notify you or your parents if your  
artwork was selected.]



# Merry Christmas

VC

# The Village Gazette

## Sudoku

The challenge is to fill every row across, every column down, and every 3x3 box with the digits 1 through 9. Each 1 through 9 digit must appear only once in each row across, each column down, and each 3x3 box.

			6	8				9
		9	2	3	1	5		
		4		1	5			8
5		1	9		3			
6								
					4			
2				5			4	
	4						8	1

\*Solution at [www.PEELinc.com](http://www.PEELinc.com)

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## Attention Teenagers

The **Teenage Job Seekers** listing service is offered free of charge to all Village Creek teenagers seeking work. Submit your name and information to [skstengle@sbcglobal.net](mailto:skstengle@sbcglobal.net) by the 8<sup>th</sup> of the month!

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## Tips for Parents of Young Athletes Ways to Enhance the Child's Experience and Yours!

*Submitted by Elizabeth Mirabal*

With a new year around the corner, many of us are working on creating our annual list of resolutions as well as preparing for another year of team sports with our children. Aside from less sweets and more exercise, parents may also want to consider a few goals to work toward as they participate in youth sports. Here are a few ideas to consider:

- Talk to your child about his/her practices and games. Guide your athlete as he/she discovers personal areas of success and skills that need improvement. You may say, "I'm proud of how fast you ran on the field. What are you most proud of today?"

- Choose your role and stick to it. Have you chosen to be a spectator and root for the teams? Did you volunteer to coach? Are you a game official? All are necessary in maintaining a positive environment for children. When compelled to switch roles, remind yourself of the role you've chosen. If you're a spectator, refrain from shouting out a call or play. If you're a coach, take the lead in ensuring young athletes are demonstrating good sportsmanship-like behavior at all times. As an official, recognize that you are the final frontier when it comes to game rules and team conduct. When all groups work together, the results provide for a supportive and educational experience.

- Be emotional! Laugh! Cheer! Smile! Fun isn't only for kids! Feel free to holler and liven up the environment! There may be times, however, when you believe an unjust call was made or a rule is not being adhered to. Suddenly, your emotions are all but requiring laughter. Reduce the possibility of an outburst by taking a few deep breaths, counting to ten, or by taking a walk to the parking lot. Then, find an appropriate time and place to address your concerns with a league official. Statistics show that 28% of young athletes saw their parents yelling at or arguing with coaches and 31% saw parents arguing with officials (Trends & Tundes, HarrisInteractive, Volume 3, Issue 8, August 2004). That is one statistic you want to steer clear from!

- Focus on FUN and not winning. Help children develop self-esteem through their personal improvements and not a game win. Rather than asking, "Did your team win?" Why not ask, "Did you do your best? What did you learn today? Did you have fun?" Emphasize that his/her improvement was related to hard work at practice and listening to the coach. Therefore, the child learns to define individual success as a result of his/her own effort. This turns the focus away from an aspect he/she cannot fully control; the entire team's win/loss record.

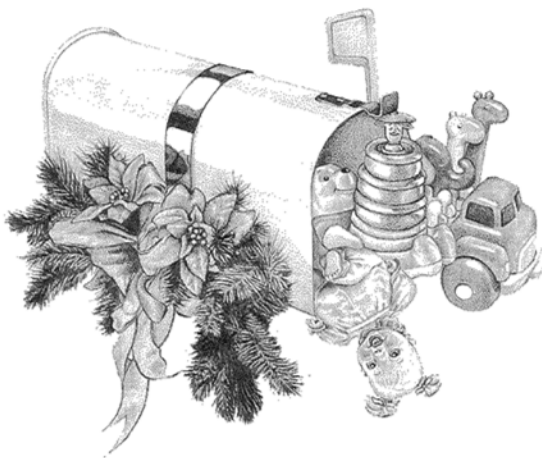
- Ensure your fueling your child's engine with the "Good Stuff": It has happened to many of us. We ask our child to pick a snack to eat before a game and he/she runs out of the house with cookies. While the cookies may provide a quick burst of energy, it'll remain just that: a burst (that fizzles out quickly). Why not make a brief list of nutritional snacks your child can choose from THEN allow him/her to choose from there. Your options may include: a banana and milk, apple slices and cheese, or an ol' fashioned PB & J sandwich on whole-grain bread. This way, you've ensured your athlete chooses wisely and he/she maintains his ability to make the final choice. A win-win situation! Don't forget to rehydrate during practice and games with plenty of water! Frequent small sips of water are more beneficial than gulping down a bottle of water at half-time which may lead to stomach discomfort.

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